



State of Tennessee Department of Children's Services

## **Administrative Policies and Procedures: 26.6**

**Subject: Access To Viewing, Reading and Listening Material  
For Youth in Youth Development Centers and DCS  
Group Homes**

**Supersedes: DCS 26.6, 01/01/04**

**Local Policy: No**

**Local Procedures: No**

**Training Required: No**

**Applicable Practice Model Standard(s): Yes**

**Approved by:**

**Effective date: 07/01/99**

**Revision date: 04/01/05**

### **Application**

To All Youth Development Center Employees and DCS Group Home Employees and Youth

**Authority:** TCA 37-5-106

### **Policy**

All youth shall have access to newspapers, magazines, books, videotapes, and listening materials such as recorded audiotapes or compact discs (CDs) as part of their educational program and may also be used for entertainment purposes. Reading, listening, and/or viewing materials rated "X", "R", "NC 17" or labeled as "Adult" shall be prohibited from Youth Development Centers and DCS Group Homes.

### **Procedures**

#### **Access to viewing/listening/ reading materials**

Appropriate reading, viewing, and/or listening materials shall be accessible for youth at each Youth Development Center and DCS Group Home.

1. Restrictions to access shall be directly related to the maintenance of facility order and security.
2. Each YDC Superintendent and DCS group home Supervisor or designee shall be responsible for previewing and approving video tapes and movies which are to be sponsored by the facility at their discretion, to ensure that

the material is appropriate and suitable for viewing by youth.

3. Youth shall be advised in the program handbook of prohibited material and possible discipline for possession outlined in their handbook.
4. Prohibited reading, viewing and listening materials found in the possession of a youth or sent to a youth through the mail shall be considered contraband material and handled according to DCS policy [27.21, Contraband](#).
5. Staff members in possession of, or trafficking in, prohibited reading, viewing or listening materials while on the facility grounds, shall be subject to disciplinary action.
6. Paragraph #5 above shall not apply in situations where confiscated materials prohibited in this policy are being held as evidence, pending a disciplinary hearing for either youth or staff accused of possession of such contraband.

## **Forms**

None

## **Collateral Documents**

None

## **Standards**

ACA 3-JCRF 5G-02

ACA 3-JTS-5H-06

DCS Practice Model Standard – 8-306

## **Glossary**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Computer game ratings:</b>	<p>The Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) assigns ratings to games for personal computers and home video systems as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ <b>Early Childhood (EC):</b> Suitable for ages 3 and older. Does not contain inappropriate material.</li><li>♦ <b>Everyone (E):</b> Suitable for ages 6 and older. May contain minimal violence, some comic mischief (such as slapstick comedy), or some crude language. (E is a new rating. Older games may still carry the rating K-A, Kids to Adults, which is also suitable for ages 6 and older.)</li></ul>

- ♦ **Teen (T):** Suitable for ages 13 and older. May contain violence, mild or strong language, or suggestive themes.
- ♦ **Mature (M):** Suitable for ages 17 and older. May contain more intense violence, language, or sexual themes.
- ♦ **Adults Only (AO):** Suitable only for adults. May contain graphic sex or violence. Not intended to be rented or sold to anyone under the age of 18.
- ♦ **Rating Pending (RP):** Game has not yet been rated.

On the back of the game package, the ESRB also includes a brief description of the content to give parents more information about the game. For example, an EC rating might come with the description "Edutainment," which means educational entertainment. Other content descriptors include the following:

- |                         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Informational         | • Mild language              |
| • Suggestive themes     | • Realistic violence         |
| • Comic mischief        | • Strong language            |
| • Mature sexual themes  | • Nudity                     |
| • Mild violence         | • Hate speech                |
| • Strong sexual content | • Use of tobacco and alcohol |
| • Violence              | • Strong hate speech         |

**Movie ratings:**

In the United States, the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) issues ratings for movies as follows:

- ♦ **G - General Audience** - Movie suitable for all ages
- ♦ **PG - Parental guidance suggested** - Contains mature themes, may not be suitable for small children
- ♦ **PG-13 - Parents strongly cautioned** - Contains mature themes, may not be suitable for children under 13 years old
- ♦ **R (or X) - Restricted** - Contains mature themes (usually sex and/or violence). Children under 17 not admitted without an adult
- ♦ **NC-17** - No children under 17 admitted.
- ♦ **NR or Not Rated** - Not an MPAA rating. Used for independent or foreign films that are in limited release and have not been submitted to the MPAA for a rating classification. Also used by a film that is soon to be released and has trailers out for promotional purposes, but has not yet received a final rating.